

Appl. No. 09/734,777
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 13 January 2005

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

The Examiner states that the spacing of the lines in the specification makes reading and entry of amendments difficult. The applicant is confused by this statement. The specification as filed is double-spaced, and the file-wrapper copy of the specification at the USPTO public PAIR page confirms that a double-spaced copy of the specification was received at the USPTO, and the publication of the application as US2001/0007127 indicates that the specification was process-able by the USPTO. The Examiner is requested to clarify the basis for the need to resubmit new application papers.

The Office action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for the inclusion of the phrase "each time". The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, but in the interest of advancing prosecution of this case, the independent claims are amended to remove this phrase. The claims are not narrowed in scope by this amendment.

The Office action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Komuro (USP 6,223,285) and Gray et al. (USP 5,706,348, hereinafter Gray). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-8 depend, claims a secure communication system that includes a source device that encrypts a data field of a packet that includes a key check block field under control of a source session key, and a sink device that includes a key resolver that determines which sink session key corresponds to the source session key by decrypting the data in the key check block field of the received packet under control of a different one of a plurality of candidate sink session keys until a valid decryption result is found. The Office action uses the rejection of claim 1 as the basis of the rejection of claims 9-12.

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Neither Komuro nor Gray teach or suggest the encryption of a key check block field in a data field of a packet that facilitates a determination of a sink session key that corresponds to the source session key that was used to encrypt the key check block field.

The Office action relies upon Komuro for teaching a key resolver, but acknowledges that Komuro does not teach the use of a key check block field in the encrypted data field to determine a corresponding sink session key, and thus does not teach decrypting the data in the key check block under control of a different one of a plurality of candidate sink session keys until a valid decryption result is found.

The Office action asserts that Gray teaches the use of a key check block field in the encrypted data field to determine a corresponding sink session key, and decrypting the data in the key check block under control of a different one of a plurality of candidate sink session keys until a valid decryption result is found. The applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

Gray teaches creating a "marker packet" that is inserted in the data stream each time the session key changes. This marker packet contains keys that are compared to keys stored at the destination node, and is identified as a marker packet at the destination node when the keys match (step 106 in FIG. 12 of Gray). When the marker packet is identified at the destination node, the new sink session key is used to decrypt subsequent packets (step 114 in FIG. 12 of Gray). Gray does not teach decrypting a key check block field using each of a plurality of candidate sink session keys until a valid decryption result is found, as specifically claimed by the applicant.

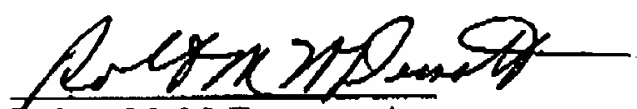
Because neither Komuro nor Gray, individually or collectively, teach or suggest decrypting the data in the key check block field of the received packet under control of a different one of a plurality of candidate sink session keys until a valid decryption result is found, as specifically claimed by the applicant, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Komuro and Gray.

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In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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